I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM DOING IT NO STRINGS ATTACHED
REMEMBER, THIS IS YOUR PAYMENT
'KAY?
M-MICHIKO...
KING'S GAME ORIGIN
SHU
SHU

GASP
WHA—
WHAT'RE YOU TWO DOING IN HERE?!
CHAPTER 8
KING'S GAME ORIGIN
ORIGINAL STORY: NOBUAKI KANAZAWA
ART: J-TA YAMADA

I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, WE'RE—
WHAT WE DO IS NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS, HISAKO-SAN.
WHAT DO YOU CARE, ANYWAY?
MICHIKO-SAN, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT A HORRIBLE SITUATION WE'RE FACING HERE?!

WE CAN HOLD FUNERALS WHENEVER, RIGHT?
THE LIVING SHOULD TAKE PRIORITY OVER THE DEAD.

PEOPLE ARE DYING ALL OVER THE VILLAGE...
AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN GIVEN THEM PROPER FUNERALS!
EVEN IN TIMES LIKE THESE YOU'RE ALL BUSINESS, HUH, HISAKO-SAN?

WHY YOU—
WHATEVER, HISAKO-SAN.
!
"UH, FLINCH
SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I... I—

GLANCE
I SAW KAZUNARI-KUN..
GO INSIDE...
HEH...
KAZU-NARI...?
HISA-KO-SAN?
HUH?
YOU WERE STALKING HIM, IN OTHER WORDS.
"OUR SON KAZUYA'S ONLY IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL! AND YOU TWO ARE FRIENDS, RIGHT?"
"PLEASE, KAZUNARI-KUN, DON'T PICK OUR FAMILY!"
PROBABLY TO BEG AND GROVEL, LIKE...

HISA-KO-SAN...
D-DON'T LISTEN TO HER...I WOULDN'T ...I...
OF COURSE YOU WOULD!
PLEADING FOR YOUR SON INSTEAD OF YOURSELF MIGHT JUST BE ENOUGH TO SWAY KAZUNARI.
AAH, ADULTS ARE SO RUTHLESS.

W-WHAT ABOUT *YOU*?!
YOU'RE TRYING TO SEDUCE HIM SO HE WON'T CHOOSE YOU!
WELL, *DUH.*

IS THAT A PROBLEM?
IF YOU'RE FRUSTRATED, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A SHOT TOO?
HMM?
NOW THAT I LOOK AT YOU, YOU'RE ACTUALLY WEARING MAKEUP FOR ONCE.
AND IN THIS HORRIBLE SITUATION!
HISAKO-SAN, YOU WEREN'T REALLY GOING TO...
カあああ
BLUSH
PLEASE! YOU'RE OVER 30, YOU OLD HAG!
KYA HA HA HA HA

H-HOW DARE YOU! I WOULD NEVER STOOP TO SUCH VULGAR...
DON'T COMPARE ME TO A LITTLE BRAT LIKE YOURSELF!
GRR
DON'T YOU THINK OF ANYONE BUT YOURSELF?!
WITH THE LAST ORDER YOU WERE FIRST IN LINE TO BORROW MONEY FROM THE POLICE!
COME ON, BOTH OF YOU...
LET'S ALL CALM DOWN.
MOMMY
おかあさーん
おかあさーん
MOMMY
GASP

MOMMY
MOMMY
KAZU-YA...
DASH
I TOLD YOU IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS TO GO OUTSIDE THE HOUSE, DIDN'T I?
I GOT WORRIED WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME BACK, MOMMY...
COME ALONG... LET'S GO HOME.

NO ONE CAN KEEP A LEVEL HEAD AT THIS POINT.
GIVEN THAT DEPENDING ON YOUR DECISION ANY ONE OF US COULD END UP DEAD ..
...I'VE COME TO RESPECT THE KING'S POWER.
PO-WER...?

I DON'T THINK THE POLICE CAN STOP HIM.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
AT THE VERY LEAST, THE KING HAS TWO SUPER-HUMAN ABILITIES.
HE HAS THE POWER TO MURDER PEOPLE AT WILL...
...AND THE POWER TO DETERMINE WHO DID OR DID NOT FOLLOW HIS ORDERS.
NO NORMAL HUMAN BEING IS CAPABLE OF EITHER.

IT MEANS YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE, KAZUNARI.
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THE POLICE WILL EASILY CATCH A GUY WHO CAN DO WHAT HE DOES.
AND DEFINITELY NOT BY THE END OF THE DAY.
THEN...

KAZU-NARI-KUN... I'M TER-RIBLY SORRY
WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A SUSPECT IN THIS "KING'S GAME"
I THINK THE BEST OPTION AT THIS POINT...
...IS FOR YOU TO SELECT ONE OF THE VILLAGERS.
WE'LL DO EVERY-THING IN OUR POWER TO PROTECT THEM.
8/11 (THURS) 11:30 PM
YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE ONE OF THE VILLAGERS.

I...
KAZUNARI
KAZU-NARI-KUN, I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU MUST FEEL
BUT IF YOU DON'T CHOOSE SOMEONE, THE KING WILL TARGET THE WHOLE VILLAGE
IT'LL BE MUCH HARDER FOR US TO TRY AND PROTECT EVERY-ONE.
I CAN'T!
BUT...
BUT IF ..THE PERSON I CHOOSE...
REALLY IS BE-HEADED LIKE THE KING SAYS...
IT'D BE IM-POSSIBLE ALMOST EVERYONE IN THE VIL-LAGE IS HERE IN THE MEET-ING HALL.
AND WE'VE THOR-OUGHLY CHECKED EVERY-BODY FOR BLADES AND SHARP OBJECTS

BUT...
THE PERSON YOU PICK WILL ACTUALLY BE THE SAFEST ONE IN THE VILLAGE
THINK ABOUT IT THIS WAY, KAZUNARI-KUN.
THE PERSON YOU PICK WILL HAVE OVER A DOZEN PEOPLE GUARDING THEM
WE'VE SET UP A CHECKPOINT TO KEEP THE MEDIA AND OTHERS OUT OF THE VILLAGE
ALSO...
SHOULD I REALLY LISTEN TO DOUJIMA-SAN AND PICK SOMEONE?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?! THE LETTER MADE IT CLEAR I CAN'T PICK MYSELF!

SHAKE SHAKE
DAMMIT, DAMMIT!
I CAN'T! I CAN'T PICK ANYONE!
I MEAN, ALL THOSE COPS AND THEY STILL WEREN'T ABLE TO CATCH HIM!
WHAT IF MICHIKO'S RIGHT, AND THE KING'S MORE POWERFUL THAN THE WHOLE POLICE FORCE?!
I FIGURED IT'D GO LIKE THIS, KAZUNARI
TMP

MICHIKO... WHAT IS THIS?
MURMUR
IT'S A RAFFLE BAG I MADE.
THERE'RE 23 SLIPS OF PAPER INSIDE, EACH WITH ONE VILLAGER'S NAME ON IT.
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS PICK ONE, AND THERE'S YOUR CANDIDATE.
YOU WANT ME TO PICK SOMEONE RANDOMLY?!
BUT THIS IS SO IMPORTANT!

GLANCE
C'MON
IT'S FIVE MIN-UTES TO MID-NIGHT.
HE DOESN'T CARE IF YOU PICK OUT OF A BAG.
PLUS, LIKE DOUJIMA-SAN SAYS, THE ONE YOU PICK WILL BE WELL-PROTECT-ED.
MY WAY'S PER-FECTLY FAIR.
NO MORE TIME TO THINK.
12
1
2
3
9
10
11
IF YOU DON'T PICK NOW, THE PEOPLE WHO STAYED AT HOME WILL BE IN REAL DANGER.

HM. LOOKS
YOU THINK THEY'LL BE ENOUGH?
I'M SURE THERE'RE A COUPLE COPS AT HIS HOUSE, BUT NOWHERE NEAR AS MANY AS HERE.
RYUUJI'S STILL NOT RE-COV-ERED...
..HIS SISTER SUZU-KO'S ONLY NINE.
I...UM M...
YEAH. WHAT IF THE KING GOES AFTER RYUUJI'S FAMILY?
AND THE SENIORS WHO ARE HOME ALONE...
HE COULD GO AFTER THEM...
MUMBLE
FINE.

I'LL...
DRAW A NAME
G-GOOD. HURRY UP.
OKAY...
RUSTLE

*PAPER: NAKAMURA HISAKO
中村久子
HI...
HISA-KO... SAN...
NAKA-MURA HISAKO-SAN...
KAZU-NARI...
WHO DO YOU CHOOSE?

AH-
M-ME?!
OOH! HE PICKED HISAKO-SAN!
TOUGH LUCK, HUH?
WOBBLE
M-MICHI-KO... YOU DIDN'T...
DASH
GRAB
FLUTTER
FLUTTER

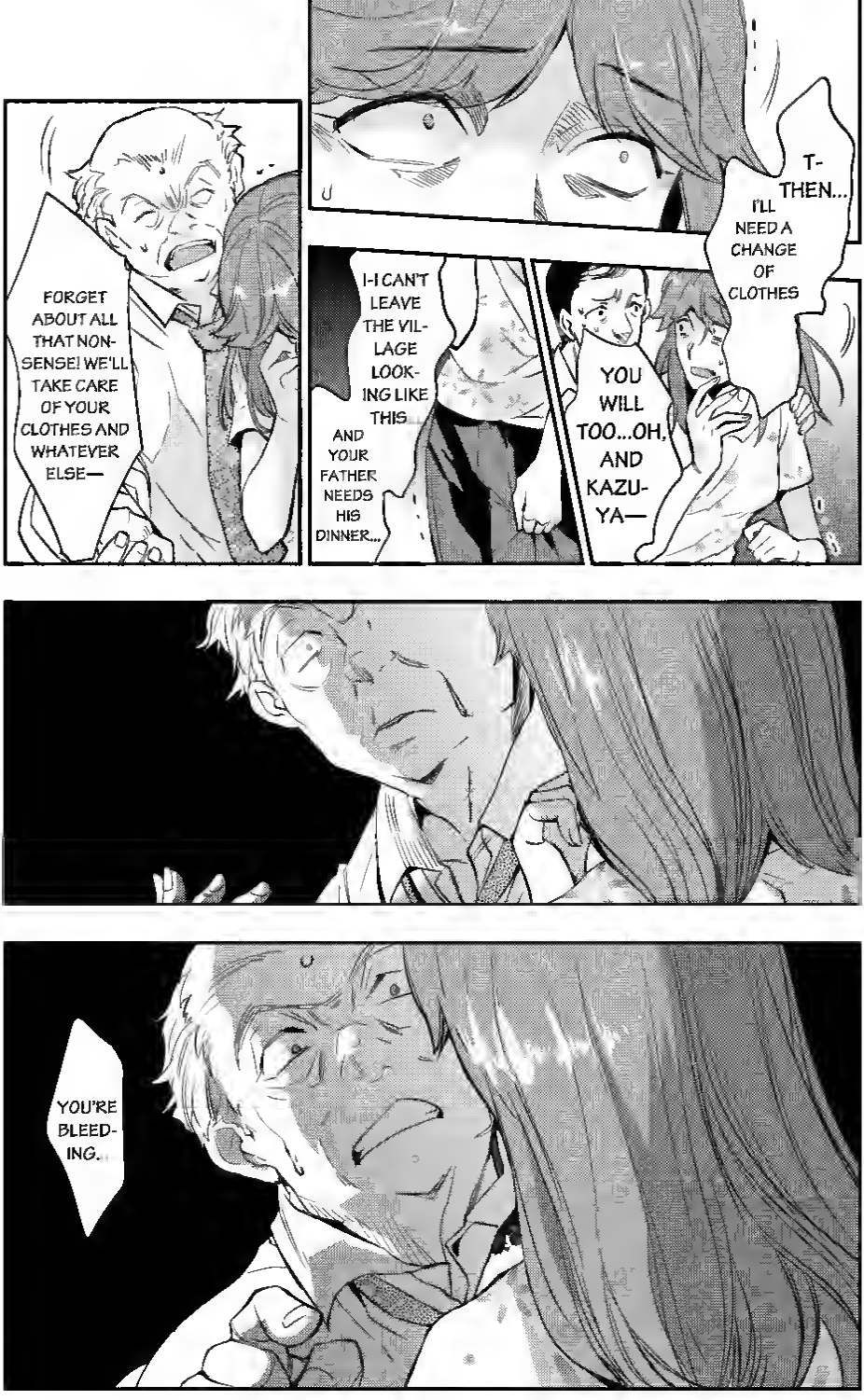
*ALL PAPERS- NAKAMURA HISAKO
AND THAT ONE...
AND THAT ONE...
ALL OF THEM!
THAT'S ME...
YOU WROTE MY NAME ON ALL OF THEM?!
YUP.
IT WAS A SPECIAL RAFFLE WHERE YOU WERE THE ONLY OPTION.
GRAB
NO... THIS DOESN'T COUNT!
DO IT OVER, DO IT FOR REAL!

12
I ASKED KAZUNARI WHO HE CHOSE, AND HE SAID YOUR NAME, HISAKO-SAN.
THE CHOICE WAS MADE IN THAT MOMENT.
BUT WE CAN'T. IT'S AFTER MIDNIGHT NOW.
*PAPER: NAKAMURA HISAKO
BESIDES, I DON'T THINK THE KING LETS PEOPLE CHANGE THEIR MINDS—
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU, MICHIKO?!

WHO CARES?
BESIDES, I DIDN'T LIE TO YOU.
WOBBLE
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO SOME-ONE?!
I CLEARLY SAID, "THERE'RE 23 SLIPS OF PAPER INSIDE, EACH WITH ONE VILLAGER'S NAME ON IT."
IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT THEY WERE ALL THE SAME VILLAGER.
NGH
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR BEING SO WISHY-WASHY.
IF YOU'D JUST PICKED SOMEONE ON YOUR OWN THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAP-PENED, WOULD IT?
AND HEY, DID I EVEN DO ANY-THING WRONG?
YEAH I RIGGED THE RAFFLE, BUT THAT ALONE DIDN'T HARM HISAKO-SAN.

PLUS LOOK AT HOW RELIEVED EVERYONE ELSE IS.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
HISA-KO-SAN, PLEASE REMAIN CALM.
BY BEING SELECTED AS THE TARGET, YOU'RE NOW THE SAFEST PERSON IN THE VILLAGE
KAZUYA AND MY FATHER-IN-LAW ARE AT HOME WAITING FOR ME...
B-BUT KAZUYA...
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
I'M GOING TO MOVE YOU TO ANOTHER ROOM AND HAVE A LARGE GROUP OF MY MEN GUARD YOU 24/7.

KAZUYA... AH YES, YOUR YOUNG SON.
WE'LL HAVE HIM GO WITH YOU THEN.
GET HIM.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
DON'T WORRY, HISAKO THE POLICE WILL PROTECT YOU
MURMUR
MURMUR
YOU CAN GO WITH HER AS WELL, SIR.
GETTING HISAKO-SAN TO A SAFE PLACE IS OUR TOP PRIORITY.
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
DEPENDING ON HOW THINGS PLAY OUT, WE MAY DECIDE TO MOVE HER TO THE STATION.


T-THEN...
I'LL NEED A CHANGE OF CLOTHES
YOU WILL TOO...OH, AND KAZU-YA—
I-I CAN'T LEAVE THE VIL-LAGE LOOK-ING LIKE THIS AND YOUR FATHER NEEDS HIS DINNER...
FORGET ABOUT ALL THAT NON-SENSE! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR CLOTHES AND WHATEVER ELSE—
YOU'RE BLEED-ING...

BLEE... BLEED-ING?
DRIP
WHY...
...AM I BLEED-ING?
SLIP
IMPOS-SIBLE...
THIS CAN'T BE HAP-PENING!
HCK?
GHACK

HI-SA-KO!
HISA-KO-SAN, WAIT!
AA AA AH!
WHY, WHY, WHY?!
KYII
DASH!!!
KYII
THUD
SPLAT
SPLAT

ROLL
FLUMP
BATHLUMP

MOMMY...
MOMMY...

MOMMY... MOMMY...
KAZU-YA!
HUG
DON'T LOOK!
MOM-MY...
HISA-KO—
GYAAH
GYAAH

BZZZT
CRAT
CALM DOWN!
EVERYONE, CALM DOWN!
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT...
I SENTENCED KAZUYA'S MOM TO DEATH!